



## Fast Facts

*Gateway National Recreation Area is 26,000 acres of natural, historical and recreational space located in the heart of the New York metropolitan area. The park is administered as three units: Staten Island, Jamaica Bay and Sandy Hook. Sandy Hook is a six mile long barrier beach peninsula in Monmouth County at the northern tip of the New Jersey shore and the entrance to New York Harbor. Fort Hancock is a National Historic Landmark consisting of some 100 buildings located at the tip of Sandy Hook.*

**Acreage:**

Totaling 2,044 acres: park land is managed as historic landscapes (110 acres), developed recreational land (238 acres) and natural areas (1,696 acres).

**Budget:**

Annual Operating Budget:	\$4,851,000	(FY2004)
Operations Shortfall:	\$2,869,900	(From NPS Operations Formulation Sys.)
Maintenance Backlog:	\$75,445,000 *	
Un-funded Projects:	\$25,748,610	(From Project Mgt. Information Sys.)

\* This is a partial figure and includes 163 of the 339 park structures, facilities and properties evaluated to date in the NPS Asset Deficiency System.

**Concessions:**

HS Concessions: Seasonal facilities at six beach centers from April through November offer food, drinks and beach supplies.

**Congressional Delegation:** Congressman Frank Pallone, (NJ-06)

**Legislation:**

Established as part of Gateway National Recreation Area in 1972.

**Natural Resources:**

Six miles of ocean beaches, salt marshes, a 64 acre maritime holly forest and significant nesting and feeding habitat for over 300 species of shorebirds and migrants along the Atlantic Flyway.

**Cultural Resources:** Two National Historic Landmarks. The 1774 Sandy Hook Lighthouse is the oldest surviving lighthouse in the United States. Fort Hancock and Sandy Hook Proving Ground include over 200 historic structures associated with the protection of New York Harbor and America's coastal defense in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Recreational Resources:** Five life-guarded beaches used by over a million people each summer. Other recreational opportunities include fishing, birding, hiking, bicycling, surfing and wind surfing.

**Staffing:** Permanent Staff: 55 Temporary Staff: 94, (FY2004)

**Visitation:** Annual visitation between 2 and 2.5 million visitors each year.

**VIP Information:** Over 500 volunteers contribute more than 32,000 hours each year in natural and historic preservation, interpretation, research, education and park maintenance.

**Priorities:**

- Preservation and adaptive rehabilitation of historic Fort Hancock
- Use sustainable approaches in beach management and sand replenishment
- Develop alternative transportation options for park visitors
- Develop new Sandy Hook Visitor Center at Fort Hancock
- Rehabilitate SH Lighthouse Keepers Quarters as NJ Lighthouse museum

**Partnerships:**

The Sandy Hook Foundation is the park's official Friends group. Fort Hancock's historic buildings are used by education and research groups under various forms of agreement, including Marine Academy of Science & Technology, (MAST) High School; James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory; NJ Marine Sciences Consortium; Brookdale Community College; the American Littoral Society and the NJ Audubon Society.